

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Docket 222

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

2 AUG 1993

RECEIVED

AUG - 3 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

RECEIVED

AUG - 5 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Bill Archer
House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Archer:

This is in reply to your letter of June 29, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Steven W. Jennings, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals, plus a discussion paper released March 1, 1993.

We are sensitive to the needs of users of private land mobile radio spectrum and the impact that these proposals may have on their radio systems. We will endeavour to protect all private land mobile radio systems, including those operated by public safety entities. Your constituent's letter will be included in the record of this proceeding and will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules.

Thank you for your interest in this proceeding. We expect to issue final rules in 1994.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Jacobs

Edward R. Jacobs
Deputy Chief, Land Mobile and
Microwave Division

Enclosures

041
No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

BILL ARCHER
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

RANKING MINORITY
MEMBER
WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION

Congress of the United States
House representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1236 LONGWORTH
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4307
(202) 225-2571
FAX (202) 225-4381

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1003 WIRT ROAD, SUITE 311
HOUSTON, TX 77055-6832
(713) 467-7493
FAX (713) 461-6289

June 29, 1993

Lauren J. Belvin
Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Director Belvin:

Enclosed is a letter and information from Mr. Steven W. Jennings, Director of the Harris County Data Services and Communications Center. Mr. Jennings has requested that the implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's revisions in the private land mobile radio services (PR Docket #92-235) be delayed to allow Harris County a more manageable time frame for adjusting to the changes. I hope that you will give Mr. Jennings request due consideration as you move to implement FCC PR Docket #92-235.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Bill Archer
Member of Congress

BA/jpm

HARRIS COUNTY

DATA SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

406 CAROLINE 4TH FLOOR HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-2027 (713)755-6621 FAX (713)755-8930



24 May 1993

The Honorable Congressman Bill Archer

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

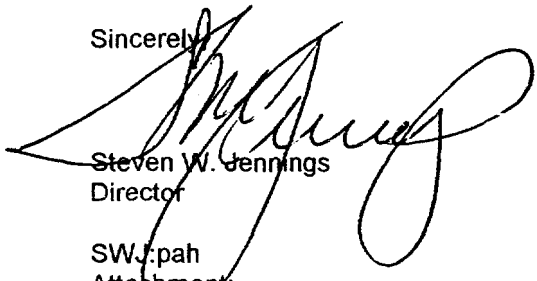
Dear Congressman Archer:

I am writing to you to seek your support to delay the implementation of Federal Communications PR Docket 92-235 which is the proposed rulemaking on the refarming of radio frequencies below 512 MHz. Although the bulk of radio communications in Harris County government is above 512 MHz, many public safety agencies within Harris County and the State of Texas must rely upon the lower frequencies for intercommunications. The proposed timetable of Docket 92-235 is unreasonable and will negatively impact the budgets and operations of many public safety agencies. This will ultimately cause an unnecessary tax burden upon the citizens of Texas.

The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) has developed a plan which is reasonable and accomplishes what the F.C.C. has proposed, but in a more manageable time frame.

I urge you to assist us in recommending the adoption by the F.C.C. of the **Consensus Plan by the Land Mobile Communications Council to Introduce Greater Efficiencies in PLMRS Bandwidths and Power Levels.**

Sincerely,


Steven W. Jennings
Director

SWJ:pah
Attachment:

Harris County Comments to F.C.C. Docket 92-235

cc: Jerri M. Evans, Deputy Director, HCDS&CC
J. Pantermuehl, Assistant Director, Communications Div., HCDS&CC
Larry Orr, Manager, Radio Services, Communications Div., HCDS&CC

FCC General Correspondence Files
H.C. 800 MHz Radio System Correspondence File
Chron File

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20544

In the Matter of:)
)
Replacement of Part 90 by)
Part 88 to Revise the Private)
Land Mobile Radio Services and)
Modify the Policies Governing)
Them)

P R Docket 92-235

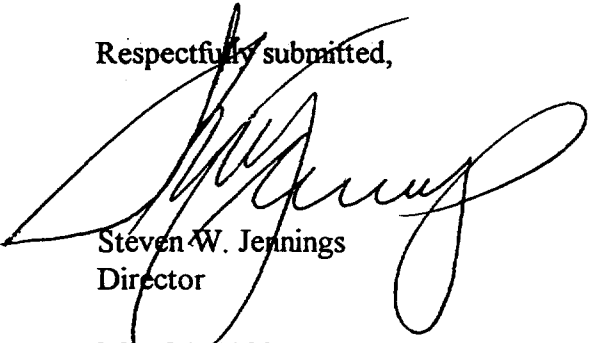
To: The Commission:

COMMENTS OF

HARRIS COUNTY DATA SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

406 Caroline
Houston, Texas 77002

Respectfully submitted,


Steven W. Jennings
Director

May 24, 1993

HARRIS COUNTY DATA SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

REFARMING ISSUES

Docket 92-235

Comments by:

Harris County Radio Communications

406 Caroline

Houston, Texas 77002

Document Editor: Larry G. Orr

(713) 755-8386

1. The Federal Communications Commission is to be commended for efforts to ~~increase~~ the efficient use of the frequency bands below 512 MHz allocated to the Private Land Mobile Radio Services. Proposals provided in PR Docket 92-235 are very aggressive and set high goals for equipment users and manufacturers by specifying standards for spectrum efficiency.
2. Harris County, like many other metropolitan areas of the country, needs additional radio spectrum. Although the bulk of our radio communications utilizes 800 MHz trunking to cover almost 1800 square miles, we still depend upon the use of conventional operations within the 155 MHz band for in-building coverage for Public Safety.
3. Public Safety requires a very high level of flexibility in the ability to communicate by radio with neighboring agencies. Many agencies are unable to move fast enough to fund equipment to meet the proposed timetable. Many volunteer agencies rely solely upon donations of equipment and other systems for communications. Surplus equipment to meet those needs will not be available under the proposed rule making of Docket 92-235 and will jeopardize public safety radio communications.

4. Radio equipment manufacturers appear to be given a guaranteed new market at the expense of the general public and taxpayers who ultimately must pay for all changes in technology. Although this is the "system", most of the changes appear to disproportionately benefit equipment manufacturers.

5. Public Safety users normally operate within geographically defined boundaries. Commercial users are not normally bound by those same boundaries. The interspersing of SMR channels amongst frequency blocks used by Public Safety does not promote good frequency coordination and will result in an increase in adjacent channel interference. Public Safety does not need additional interference problems to contend with.

6. Future Public Safety high speed data requirements will tend toward wider bandwidths as opposed to narrower bandwidths as proposed. Contiguous frequency allotments for Public Safety are needed so that new radio digital requirements can be accomplished by combining adjacent channels. Higher efficiencies can be obtained with digital communications as compared to voice, but wider bandwidths must be available to take advantage of these efficiencies.

7. Special modulation exemptions for two watt mobile stations as proposed in 88.417 should not be allowed. A two mobile station is capable of producing widespread interference in large Public Safety systems. All potential interference sources should be minimized.

8. The life cycle of modern radio equipment has increased due to the increase in technology. There is no well-defined migration path for some of these technologies using narrow or reduced bandwidths.

9. Field modification of current communications equipment is not practical or cost-efficient to meet the proposed bandwidth requirements.

10. The cost of replacing existing radio equipment to meet the new operating standards is only part of the cost. New test equipment specifications for measuring and controlling the performance of new equipment must far exceed the standards which must be measured. The cost of sophisticated test equipment is currently excessive and the trend can only increase with the proposed rule making.

11. The proposed rule making will push Public Safety agencies toward the use of third party communication service providers. Public Safety spectrum should be limited to only government entities. Labor disputes and other unforeseen problems should not be introduced into the Public Safety communications arena.

12. Finally, "REFARMING" must provide the quality and reliability to maintain adequate radio communications for Public Safety operations. The proposed rule making does not appear to increase the quality or reliability of communications for Public Safety. It appears that Public Safety is the loser and the equipment manufacturers are the winners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Radio Management of Harris County, Texas believes that the **Consensus Plan Developed by the Land Mobile Communications Council ("LMCC")** correctly reflects a practical approach for implementing a "graceful migration" to more efficient technologies. We recommend consideration of the Consensus Plan.